

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Little Scioto River Clean-up

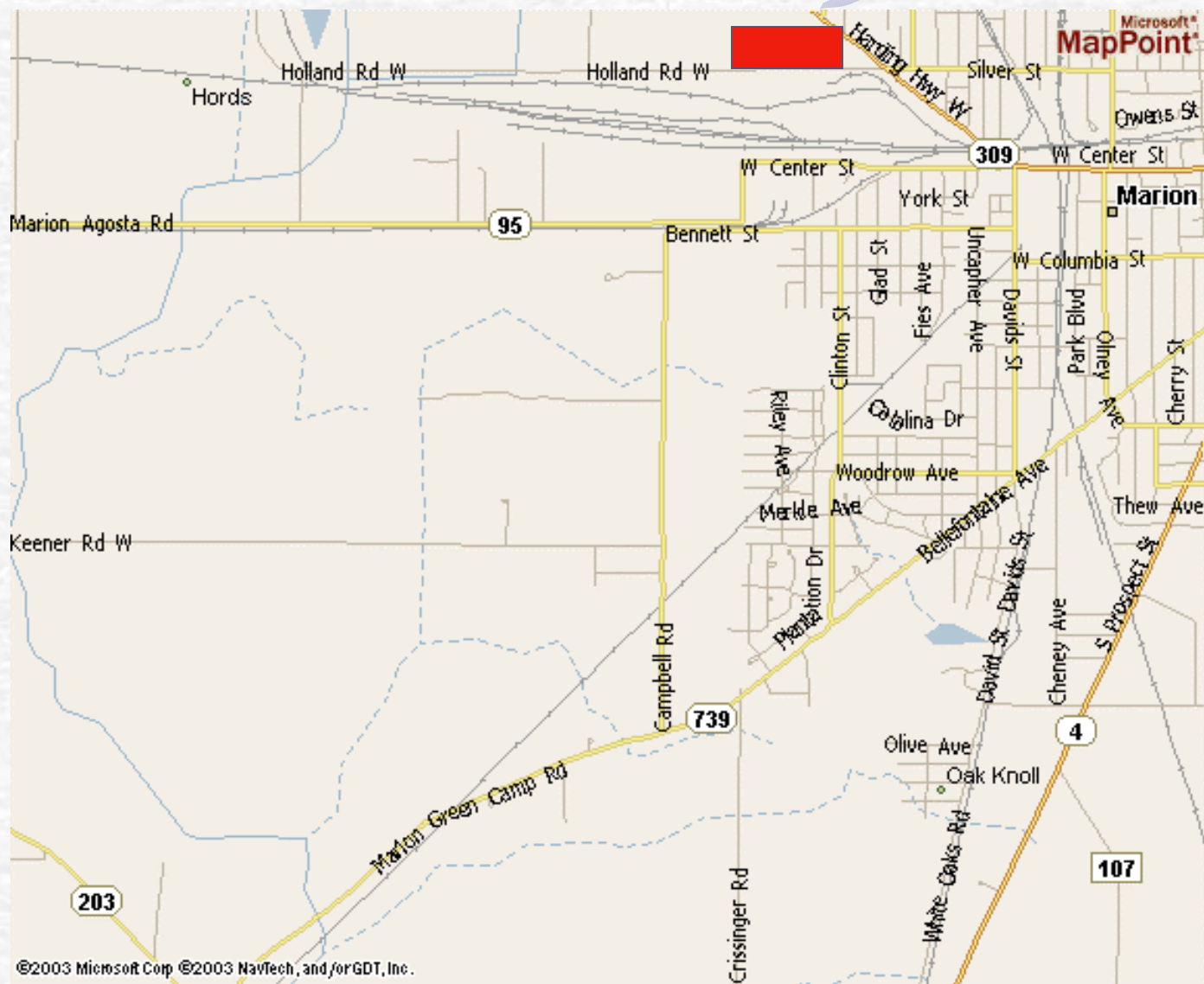
Presented To:
Freshwater Spills Symposium
April 6-8, 2004

Mark Durno, EPA, Region 5



Where are we ?





Background

- 1998 Ohio EPA Integrated Assessment at Baker Wood Creosoting.
- 1999 U.S. EPA Removal Action.
- 2000 Little Scioto River Assessment.
- 2001 Community coordination team develops.



Baker Wood Creosoting

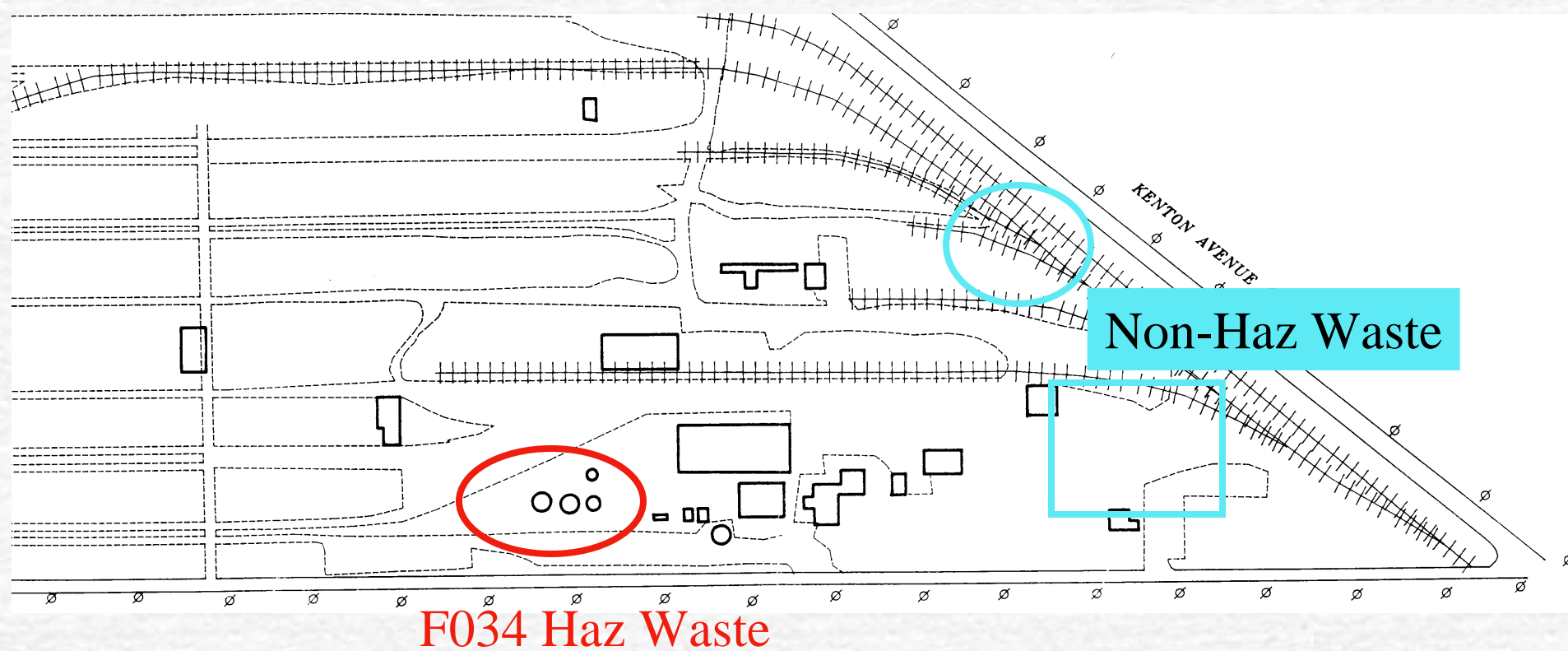
Assessment – 1998 / 1999

- Sewer determined to be link to River.
- Geophysics experiment.

CERCLA Removal – 1999

- Land Disposal Restriction.
- Haz-Landfill of Approx. 2,500 tons.
- Test Trench lead to further contamination.
- Bioremediation feasibility and treatment.
 - Approx 3,000 additional tons.
 - Disposed as non-haz waste.

Baker Wood Creosoting



Little Scioto River Assessment

- Vibro-coring of N.R. Ditch and L.S. River
 - Every 1,000 feet in Little Scioto
 - Three Point Approach
- Results
 - ½ mile of North Rockswale Ditch
 - 3 ½ miles of the Little Scioto River
 - 1 – 3 feet of sediment
 - 40,000 cubic yards

LSR Funding Approach

- ☛ Oil Pollution Act vs. CERCLA.
 - Listed hazardous substance – as a process waste.
 - Listed hazardous waste – process.
 - Behaving like an oil – continuous sheen release.
- ☛ 1996 USCG decision document.
 - Coal-Tar Creosote listed as an oil.
- ☛ RCRA review.
 - Not a hazardous waste based on historical unknowns.
- ☛ Removal Project Plan: Approved for \$9M
 - May 2002

2002 Coordination Team

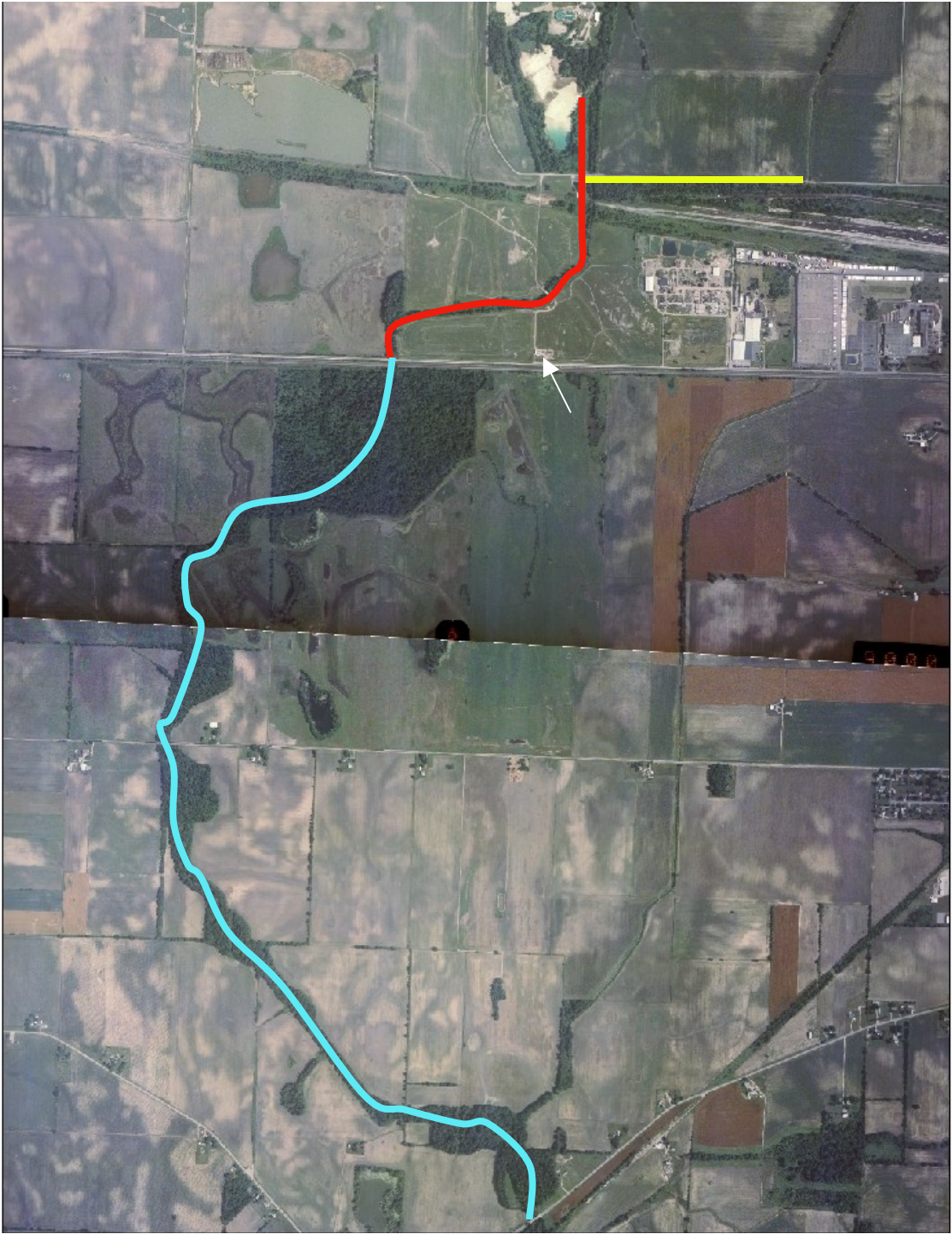
- Envisioning the 21st Century
- Ohio EPA
- Marion CanDo!
- City of Marion
 - Chamber of Commerce, Engineer, Mayor
- Marion County
 - Commissioners Office, Engineer
- U.S. EPA
- Metcalf and Eddy, Inc.
- Ohio DNR
- Senator Mumper



Support

- ☛ Union Tank Car, Inc.
- ☛ Ohio-American Water Company
- ☛ Marion WWTP
- ☛ Marion County Park District
 - Prairie Parks and Nature Preserves
- ☛ DKMM Solid Waste District
- ☛ Mr. Richard Schaeffer
- ☛ Mr. Tom Kennedy





U.S. EPA Removal – Phase 1

- ✓ Funding authorized in May 2002.
- ✓ Mobilization: 6/10/02.
- ✓ North Rockswale Ditch:
 - July 8 – August 22.
 - Approx. 7,500 cy removed.
 - Approximate removal cost: \$760,000*.

*Not including disposal.



Install Sheet Piling



Initial Observation in N.R. Ditch



First Cell in N.R. Ditch



Ditch after Excavation



Backfill and Restoration



Completed Riverbed



River Re-Route Initiative: Ohio DNR, Ohio EPA





Removal – Phase 2

- Continue Clean-up in Little Scioto River.
 - 400' de-watered cells.
 - Excavation of contaminated sediment.
 - October – November, 2002.
 - Approx. 3,000 feet completed.
- Contingency planning.
- Engineered capping.
- Riverbed and riverbank restoration.
- Disposal.



Install Sheet Piling



Pump Around Cell



De-Water Cell



Stabilize and Remove Sediment



Excavation Bottom



Place Clay to Cap River Bottom

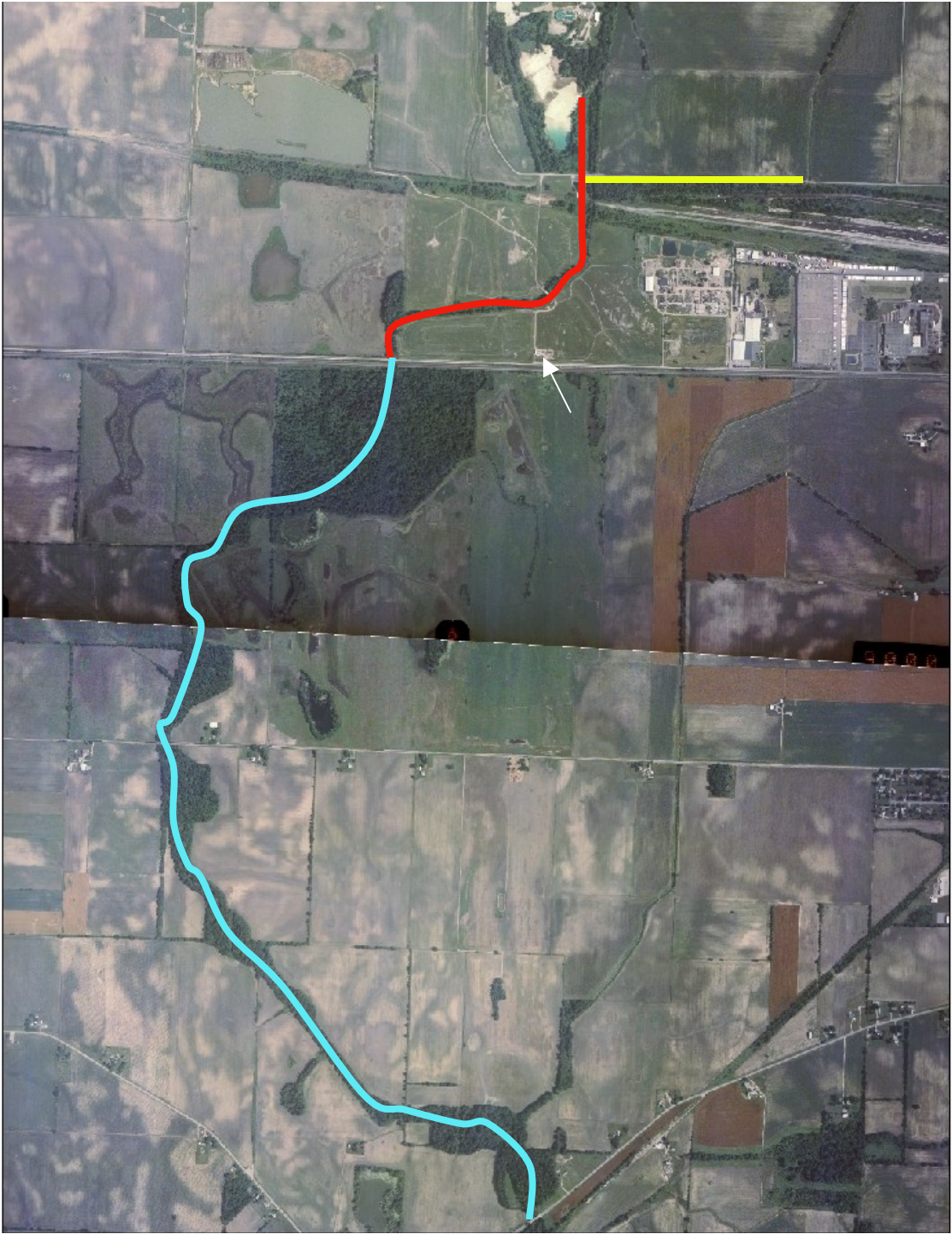


Compact Clay River Bottom



Completed River Bed





THEN.....

Things took a turn for the worse...

Letting the Red Tape In

- ISSUE 1: Solid Waste Disposal Fees
- ISSUE 2: Weather Complications
- ISSUE 3: Non-Guaranteed Funds
- ISSUE 4: Pulling the Plug
- ISSUE 5: Disposal
- ISSUE 6: Interagency Coordination

Issue 1:

Solid Waste Disposal Fees

- Initial contacts made in July, '02.
 - DKMM Solid Waste District.
- September: Ohio EPA – DKMM – Ohio EPA.
- Extent of total waiver: \$1 Million
- October: U.S. EPA requests waiver from Ohio EPA.
- November: At the 11th hour, Ohio EPA denies waiver of local fees.
- U.S. EPA asks for local waiver of fees.
 - Denied - January 2003

Issue 2: Weather Complications

- ☞ Rainy October / November.
- ☞ River level up.
 - Production slows down.
 - Unit costs increase.

Issue 3: No Guaranteed Funding

Oil Pollution Act Funding.

- \$50 million annual budget, nationally.
- \$25 million allocated to inland response.
 - EPA.
 - Divided among 10 EPA Regions.
 - \$3.8 million given to EPA Region V.
 - Under \$3.0 million available clean-up funds.
- \$3 million spent at LSR for FY03.
- EPA headquarters support

Issue 4: Pulling the Plug

- SWD issue raises awareness at USCG.
 - Region V ORC / USCG council.
 - Similar coal-tar case being evaluated in Vermont by NPFC.
- November 27, 2002, USCG orders U.S. EPA to cease contractual expenditures.
 - Cite Baker Wood tie to LSR contamination.
 - U.S. EPA HQ requested to intervene.

Issue 5: Disposal

- ☛ USCG refuses to pay local SWD fees.
 - Taxes vs. fees ?
- ☛ Local SWDs refuse to waive fees.
 - Offer compromise based on community pressure.
- ☛ 12/02: \$50,000 available for site maintenance.
- ☛ Late March, '03: USCG reverses opinion.
 - Compromise negotiated.
- ☛ Disposal completed in July, '03: 42,000 tons

Issue 6: Interagency Coordination

- USCG Position
- U.S. EPA Response.
 - Headquarters.
 - Office of General Council.
- Department of Justice and NPFC.
- One year later: no progress made to date.

The Future for the Little Scioto River Clean-up

- Resolve OPA issue between U.S. EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard.
 - Won't happen short term.
- If resolved, funds are not guaranteed.
- If not resolved, seek removal funding under CERCLA.
 - Limited funding.
- Revised cost estimate to complete:
 - Based on disposal tonnage: \$20M.

Little Scioto Web Page

www.epa.gov/region5/sites/bakerwood/lsrc